



TOWER RIDGE
COUNTRY CLUB



BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

JAN 26 2010

Mr. Paul Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning and Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Mr. Stacey,

We are from Tower Ridge Country Club in Simsbury, CT. We have been an operational business since the late 1950's. Most of that time we have been a successful private club, but over the last decade we have had to make a change to a daily fee, public golf course.

Since I have arrived as Head Superintendent in March of 2008, we have had a golf course maintenance budget of \$248,000 or less. 2009 was the first year since 2005 Tower Ridge has finished in the black. We have been in the red since 2005, the General Manager's first year at the club. Any kind of harsh regulations, restrictions, or financial penalty due to water usage changes might be too much to overcome to run our business successfully.

That being said, we would be willing to work with the appropriate committees and bureaus to find some type of middle ground of regulations or financial compensations.

The way our irrigation system and pond is set up, it is very necessary to use our transfer pump. The pump transfers water from the Farmington River to our irrigation pond and it holds up to 2 to 3 day's worth of irrigation water. The pond is not fully contained, so the excess water goes back into the Farmington River. We probably use this pump 3 times a week during the summer months. We do not use this pump during the spring or fall. Also, we do not have access to city water, so the pond is our only alternative.

On average in 2009, we used 15,690 gallons of water a day to irrigate our course during the non-summer months and 48,320 gallons of water to irrigate the course during the summer months. If the regulations are passed and we are not allowed to take and use water from the Farmington River or if the charges related to the use of water are so exorbitant and unjust, a scenario could be drawn that we will not be able to water our course properly and a majority of our quality turf areas would most likely die off. Furthermore, with the loss of grass, the loss of customers would soon follow. It would be a short amount of time until we would no longer afford to be in the business of an operational golf course. We would have to close our doors. No one will want to play golf, no one will want to come and have their banquets and receptions without the backdrop of a beautiful course.

In this economy with the unemployment rate unwavering if not rising, do you want to be responsible for an even larger increase and more and more people on unemployment benefits?

Thanks for your time,

Kenneth Ainsworth
Head Superintendent